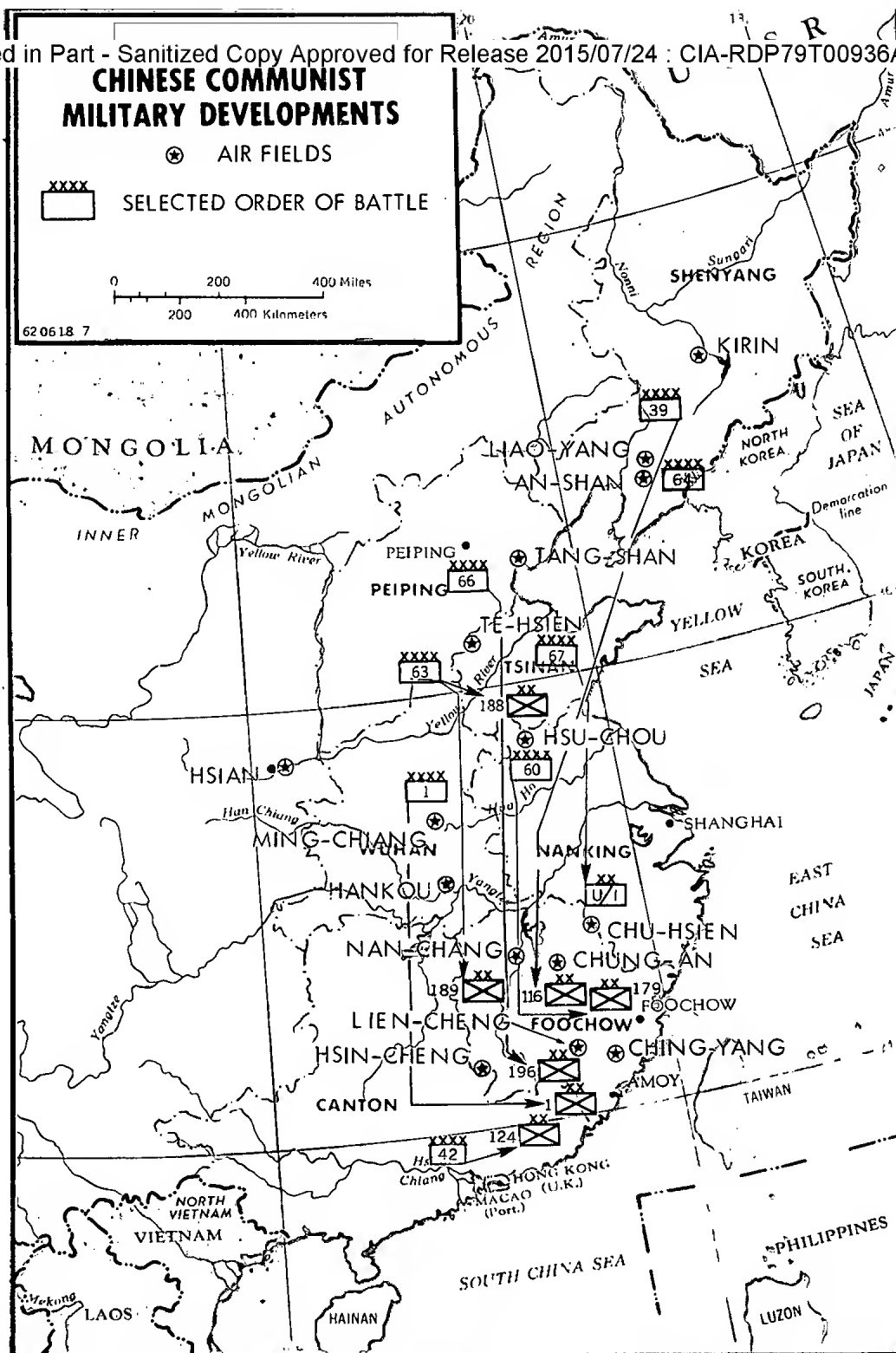


THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

19 JUNE 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

50X1



1. Communist China

a. As time goes on and the extraordinary Chinese Communist military buildup continues, our confidence in the assessment that this movement is primarily defensive in purpose is dwindling. We are unable to find any fully satisfactory explanation for this large movement, and we therefore feel that the possibility of some offensive action (perhaps against the offshore islands) cannot be dismissed.

b. We now have indications that yet another six, possibly eight, divisions will move into the Foochow Military Region. This would more than double the number (190,000) of ground forces deployed in the area before the current program began. Although hampered by weather, many of the jet aircraft noted en route from Northern China have now arrived in the Foochow Military Region.

c. The buildup is being carried out rapidly (with obvious prior planning), secretly (with obvious design to achieve tactical surprise), and, in the case of ground forces, on a scale far in excess of that which we would expect if a generally improved defensive posture were its sole purpose. Furthermore, we note that forces seem to be concentrating in the areas opposite the Nationalist-held offshore islands, to the exclusion of other (more likely) areas of Nationalist attack.

50X1

2. Thailand

[redacted] 50X1
the Phra Wiharn temple issue confronts the Sarit regime with the gravest domestic crisis it has faced since coming to power. The regime will probably go some distance toward venting nationalistic feeling; as a starter, the Foreign Ministry in Bangkok has announced that Thai delegates to the Geneva Conference on Laos and to SEATO in Bangkok will boycott these meetings. Thai troops have been given standing orders to shoot if there is any movement from Cambodia toward the Phra Wiharn temple area. Nevertheless, behind all the bluster and furor are signs that Thai leaders will try to keep matters from getting out of hand. [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] 50X1

3. Laos

Press reports from Vientiane suggest that the constitutional wrinkle which halted progress yesterday was smoothed out at a meeting between Souvanna and the King early today. [redacted] 50X1
[redacted]

4. Canadian elections

Prime Minister Diefenbaker's Conservative Party suffered heavy losses in Monday's elections but remains in power. Final returns show the standings in the 265-seat parliament to be: Conservatives 118 (a loss of 90); Liberals 97 (gain of 46); others 49, and one undecided.

5. Algeria

As expected, this weekend's truce and amnesty agreement has been disavowed by die-hard elements in the OAS. We note that no important Moslem leader has allowed his name to be associated with the putative agreement either, and we doubt that any will. Nonetheless, the truce announcement will probably serve its primary purpose, which seems to be to allow those in the OAS who wish to give up the fight to do so gracefully.

50X1

6. Turkey

Late press reports state that coalition talks have broken down over distribution of ministries, and Premier-designate Inonu has again submitted his resignation to President Gursel. We do not yet know the outcome of an eleventh-hour conference between the President and political leaders, but Inonu will probably again accept a request from Gursel to give it another try. Failing this, the military, perhaps with a nod from Inonu, may move in.

NOTES

- A. Belgian Queen Mother Elisabeth has abandoned plans to visit Cuba.
- B. Indonesian demands for Dutch assurances having now been met, we expect that the talks will be resumed sometime next week.

50X1

DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

50X1

I.

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE